



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES NORTH CAROLINA ONCE AGAIN LEADS THE NATION IN
NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS**

Wake County is No. 1 School District Nationally

RALEIGH— Gov. Mike Easley announced today that North Carolina leads the nation in the number of teachers who have earned certification by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. With 11,325 teachers across the state now certified, more than 12 percent of North Carolina teachers have achieved National Board certification.

“In North Carolina, we are committed to having excellent teachers for all our students,” said Easley. “Our teachers’ success is proof that North Carolina is doing the right things to improve teacher quality and that in turn is improving education and student performance throughout the state.”

While North Carolina is the number one state in the national certification, Wake County has more certified teachers (1,073) than any other school district in the nation. Four North Carolina counties ranked in the nation’s top 20 in the number of teachers receiving certification in 2006: Wake was 2nd with 186; Charlotte Mecklenburg, 4th with 142; Guilford, 10th with 72; and Forsyth, 18th with 49.

National Board Certification, the highest credential in the teaching profession, requires an extensive series of performance-based assessments including teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes and thorough analyses of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning. Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge, as well as their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students.

North Carolina supports teachers’ efforts to achieve National Board Certification in the following ways:

- Payment up front of the \$2,500 assessment fee. (Teachers are obligated to teach in the state the following year whether or not they achieve certification.)
- Three paid release days from normal teacher responsibilities to develop their portfolios.
- A 12 percent salary supplement to the teachers’ regular salary, good for the 10-year life of the certification.
- 15 continuing education units (CEUs) awarded to the individual for completing the National Board Certification process.